

National President of ICOBA (Foluso Phillips)
End of Term Address
Annual General Meeting.
16 September 2017

The Vice Presidents of ICOBA, members of the ICOBA Executive Council, ICOBA Set Chairmen and Secretaries, fellow Igbobians.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to our Annual General Meeting for 2017, which also marks the end of Term for the current Executive Council of ICOBA.

I thank God for protecting our lives till now and ask that we pray for the repose of the souls of Igbobians who have passed on within this period.

Igbobi College has produced great and noble Nigerians, and we celebrate you all for your great work and contribution to our school, society and nation.

The ICOBA phenomenon is unprecedented and today we have set a great example and shown great leadership and continuously raised the bar for other Old students of various secondary schools across the country.

Clearly, we have become the 'go-to' organization for advice on this aspect of school management. Nowhere in this country have old students collectively shown so much commitment to their alma mater as ICOBA. I truly commend you all.

The Executive Council has been very busy since we met with you last year.

- We held a successful 2016 AGM in September and launched, the ICOBA Partnership Initiative (IPI), which has become an effective platform for engaging the participation of Old Boys;
- We introduced the concept of Joint Set Chairmen and Secretaries Meetings with your own digital platform where the Chairman and secretary of each active set meet and thus provide a powerful means of communicating with all their members and to also drive the IPI initiative.
- This first Joint Sets meeting raised N4million in pledges, the provision of a generator by the 79/81 Set and varied financial commitments by Old Boys.
- The Justice Duro Adebisi Hall, which was also renovated beautifully by 1983 set in 2016, has become a great and extremely functional and useful venue for all our activities, which included last year's Annual General Meeting;

- Another great annual Xmas dinner party was held in December 2016 to round up the year, with a commendable attendance by Old Boys during which all had a good time. The committee did a great job.
- The school chapel is a wonderful sight to behold following renovations made by 71/73 set, ICOBA-NA, who provided a new Chancery, donated 50 banquet chairs and resolved the problems with termites. ICOBANA also funded the provision of quality cutlery for the students in the dining room.
- Mr. Ukpuno an old Boy, invested substantially in a sophisticated digital sound and public address management system for the school chapel just in time for the 85th Founders' day service and celebration.
- Our 85th Founders' day service and anniversary, followed by our now traditional Annual luncheon and Merit award ceremony took place on Sunday 5 February 2017. It was an extremely successful outing for the Old Boys, where 14 Old boys were honoured with merit awards, whilst the 77/79 set won an award for service to the college. This same set recently sponsored a successful ICOBA strategy retreat, ten years after sponsoring the first retreat about the future of the school (2007), which resulted in the formulation of our 10-year strategic plan and the current infrastructure master plan.
- I also joined the Ibadan branch in celebrating the 85th Commemoration day and anniversary celebration in Ibadan a week after on the 13 February 2017.
- The Executive Council now ensures the global participation of Old Boys in all our events by streaming live broadcasts of these gatherings. We were able to stream our 2016 AGM and our elaborate 2016 Xmas carol on the Internet.
- Exco has enhanced communication within ICOBA by investing in a digital platform and now connect all old boys through mobile telephony (WhatsApp Groups), an active website, social media and electronic payment system.
- We successfully held the first of a planned series of Business breakfast meetings on 28 March 2017 at the Duro Adebisi Hall and had Kunle Elebute, an Old Boy, member of the School Board of Governors and Managing Partner of KPMG Nigeria, share his thoughts on the state of the Nigerian economy.
- The Secretary General and I, along with our Past President Lanre Keleko participated in the ICOBANA Annual General Meeting and retreat in St Louis Missouri in the USA held from 23 to 25 June 2017. The next ICOBANA meeting will be held in Los Angeles next year and they have threatened to make it the best ever. I would like to encourage as many Old Boys as possible to attend these international gatherings and so time their annual vacation accordingly. I must commend ICOBANA for their relentless contributions to

the school, in line with all the contributions being made by the various sets and individuals.

- The Sec. Gen and I also met with some members of the ICOBA Europe executive in London the week following our US visit. We challenged them about their level of contribution to the school and look forward to the promise made to step up. They showed us some ICOBA Europe branded school ties.
- Very recently, the 6870 set funded the creation and furnishing of a now well stocked memorabilia shop. This shop has become extremely popular amongst old boys and enhanced our branding strategy for ICOBA. ICOBA branded gift items and ideas are most welcome.

Beyond these renovations and innovations, details of which is annexed to this report, the old boys have been playing cricket competitively with other schools in Lagos and encouraging the current students to learn the sport. To this end cricket equipment and necessary gear have been purchased and donated to the school by 76/78 set.

The list goes on and on. Different sets constantly contact Exco to enquire about what they can do for the school.

The Board of Governors has also been very busy, focusing more on the content of ICY education. The need for this focus was further heightened by the poor performance of the school in mathematics and some other subjects at the 2016 WAEC examinations. Steps are now being taken by the Board to address this problem. The Board of Governors gave stern warning to the Principal and his team on the consequences and accountability for the school's performance in future examinations.

Our effort to improve the school's infrastructure is extremely commendable, however, we have to start focusing on the educational aspects of the school and the Board has taken a clear lead in this. To this end:

- The Board engaged a consulting firm (funded by an old boy) to conduct a staff / teacher audit where some teachers were relieved of their duties as a result of either low grades scored in the assessment, teaching subjects that were outside their area of specialization or overstaffing in some subject areas. Of the 48 teachers in the college, 9 appointments were terminated, 1 was retired whilst 1 resigned.

- 5 New teachers have to be recruited, 3 of whom are to teach mathematics and computer science and physical education respectively. This has not been completed.
- The salary package of the teachers has been adjusted upwards to attract even better-quality teachers to compliment the current staff;
- School fees have been reviewed to sustain the gradual funding of a world class educational establishment. An increase in fees of 20% was approved for new students for the 2017/18 academic year;
- A computerized school management system was donated by the 2000 set through the software company owned by an old boy of that set as a gift to the school, with a value in excess of N2million. This has been installed and is working well. Increasing value will be realized over time as it builds a database of information for analysis and decision making by the school's teaching staff.
- The School curriculum was also reviewed to eliminate subjects that were deemed irrelevant, distracting or just fillers;
- We also commend the Parents Teachers Association, which has been very active and appreciative of the example being shown by the Old Boys of the school.
- The school currently hosts 411 students, 234 of which are borders.

Going forward, ICOBA must begin to change its focus slightly away from the upgrade of the school's infrastructure and begin to balance its generosity towards educational enhancements for the school. To this end, we note the effort by made by various individuals and sets, including Senior Pa Adunbifa (a member of Exco), Senior Fayemi (the 2nd Vice President) and ICOBANA, who have contributed to the soft skills development of the students.

Whilst I express my appreciation, I must stress the need for us to be coordinated in our actions. The Board along with the Principal is very aware of the educational and personal development needs of the students, and as a result need to work closely with the Old Boys, through Exco, on various initiatives proposed by segments of ICOBA, which must be coordinated. Most important of all, Exco needs to know so that we can support you and record these contributions.

With respect to recording these contributions, ICOBA as a body is losing out by not valuing the financial and sheer physical effort that old boys are putting in the school. It is necessary to do this so as to make the two Missions appreciate what we have done and are doing for the school. This is why we always implore old boys to act

through the central body of ICOPA. We are embarking on a massive exercise to see how we can put a value to what we have done for the school in terms of infrastructure and related enhancements.

We now have a full time and paid Executive Secretary (Dotun Afolabi, an old boy), who is there to serve you all.

We are making progress, but much more needs to be done. I have touched on some aspects of the outcome of this retreat– Curriculum, Governance, Infrastructure and Finance. The sessions were extremely useful, with great contributions and issues debated extensively. A more detailed report is due from the set.

A final word about the Governance of Igbobi College. Please I implore you all to understand and appreciate that we DO NOT, as old boys, have any intention of taking over Igbobi College. The school belongs to the Methodist and Anglican Missions. We contribute, through our infrastructure development activities to the school's assets, which in real estate terms is in excess of N5billion. We create complications for the relationship by giving the impression we want to take over the school

Following the retirement of Bishop Akinde, we now have a new Anglican Bishop in charge of the school, in the person of Bishop Pelu Johnson, whose father is also an old boy and merit award winner. The Methodist Mission has appointed Bishop Adegbite to look after its interest in the school. I can confirm that we have been in contact with them and are currently working on a revised operational document and memorandum of understanding to guide Governance issues in the school.

What must be our strategy for the school going forward?

Firstly, we must enhance the educational standards of the school. Without great academic results from the school, we will continue to struggle to fill our classes each new year. To improve the standards, we need great teachers. To get great teachers, we need to remunerate well.

Secondly, we need an enabling, comfortable, safe and decent physical environment for the boys in the school.

Thirdly, we need to ensure that leadership and management of the school is based on merit and in line with best global practices expected of great schools all over the world.

ICOBA has an integrated strategy for these three primary objectives. There is in progress, a program, which will result in the total upgrade of the road and drainage system in the school, including the sports field. The school is also likely to benefit from the location of a packaged power Plant on its premises for the local area, to guarantee free and uninterrupted power supply. The paperwork on all these are near completion. Included in this infrastructure enhancement scheme is new staff quarters to be built through two initiatives that will totally redefine the remuneration of the teaching staff. Finally, the advance stage of dialogue with the missions will result in an effective governance structure, which will put a world class and sustainable leadership and management model in place for the school.

Truly, your Executive Council of ICOBA has been busy and the stage is set for the incoming council to proceed rapidly with the implementation of these noble initiatives.

In conclusion, I would like to thank:

- The first Vice President of Council Mr. MUYIWA KINOSHI for his tireless effort and leadership on the various projects undertaken this year. 'SUKI' – as we all know him, has been a great pillar of strength and source of institutional memory of ICOBA and even the school. He will be stepping down from his role as 1st Vice President. I am sure he will continue to be extremely active in the affairs of ICOBA as a member.
- In the same breadth, I recognize our 2nd Vice President Snr. Alfred Fayemi, based in the US, and Chairman ICOBA-NA, who consistently through the years has made great personal contributions, especially of his time and shown leadership.
- The Secretary General – Mr. Yomi Badejo – Okusanya, for taking a huge load off my back and his many innovations;
- Mr. Dotun Afolabi, our Executive Secretary. This is a new paid executive position we found necessary to strengthen ICOBA as an Institution. We appeal to old boys to assist us by donating a used car for the mobility of the executive secretary.
- I also recognize and thank the elders in Council – Senior Agwu, for his sharp review of our minutes every month and Senior Pa Adubifa, who mentors our students.
- I commend and recognize all the other members of EXCO for all their work
- I thank my Infrastructure advisers for the school – Arch. Delano, Adewakun and Okubadejo

- We appreciate our Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, the Principal, Chaplain and teachers.
- For YOU the Old Boys, once again, I thank you massively for your relentless effort in trying to make Igbobi College Great again.

Without ICOBA, Igbobi College will not exist the way we know it today.

Let us make Igbobi College Great again!

God bless you all

Foluso Phillips
National President
Igbobi College Old Boys Association (ICOBA)
September 2017

Some other Key ICOBA funded Projects 2016/2017

1. Installation of a 32 KVA Generator and the Construction of a Generator House by the 7981 Set (2016). Estimated value at N 3.5 Million.
2. Renovation and the Furnishing of the Justice Duro Adebisi Conference Centre by the with 80 units Banquet Chairs and 6 units 1.5 Split Air Conditioners by the 1983 Set (2016). Estimated value at N 3 Million.
3. Newly Renovated Chancel, Alter Table and the Installation of 6 (six) 3 HP Standing Air Conditioning Units and 9 (nine) 2 HP Air Conditioning Units. Internal and External Painting of the Rev, Reginald Parker Chapel jointly by ICOBANA and 7173 Set (2017). Estimated value N 10 Million.
4. Installation of a New Sound Reinforcement and Digital Public Address System with a Control Booth donated by Chief Uche Ukponu 7375 Set (2017). Estimated value N5 Million.
5. Cross and Communion Chalice for the Chapel.
6. The Supply of Cups, Shields and Trophies for College Inter House Sports Meet together with Branded Track Suits, Boots and Jerseys for Igbobi College Football Team, Basket Ball and Volley Ball Teams, by 7678 Set. (2017). Estimated value at N 2 Million.
7. Renovation of the Revd. Angus Memorial Hall with the Lightening Installation project for the Stage by the 6971 set (2017). Estimated value at N 2.5 Million.
8. The Rehabilitation and Renovation of Rev. Angus Memorial Hall including Roof Covering, Upgrade of wiring system, replacement of Electrical Cables and Control Replacement of damaged entrance floor with modern tiles. Light - fittings replacement, Painting and Landscaping (are on-going) by the 7072 Set (2017). Estimated value N 5 Million
9. The Renovation and Furnishing of the Principal and Secretary's Office with a New Reception Area by the 6668 Set. (2017) Estimated value N 2 Million.

10. An old boy donated a brand-new photocopier to the ICOBA office
11. ICOBA 2000 set donated a computerised school management system worth N2million in acquisition cost and N1million annually in maintenance and upgrades